
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5082

AN ACT CONCERNING WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DESIGN FLOW.

SUMMARY:

By law, wastewater treatment plants must have a discharge permit from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in order to operate. In practice, these permits contain a design flow rate, which DEEP regulations define as the flow rate on which the design of a particular treatment plant is based.

This bill requires DEEP to use a 365-day rolling average when determining whether a wastewater treatment plant has reached at least 90% of its design flow. Current law does not specify how DEEP must calculate the plant's flow, but in practice, the department generally requires plants, as a condition of their discharge permits, to calculate it based on an average for the previous 180 days.

Similarly, the law does not set consequences for reaching the 90% threshold. However, as a condition of the discharge permit, if a wastewater treatment plant reaches the 90% threshold, the permittee must generally develop, and submit to DEEP for review and approval, a plan to address future flow increases. The plan must include a schedule for making recommended improvements and a plan to finance them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 28 Nay 0 (02/28/2014)